

Reading the Mind of a Fly: Why We Do It and What Can It Teach Us About Ourselves

with Marco Gallio, Assistant Professor, Department of Neurobiology, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Northwestern University



Wednesday February 17, 2016 6:30 - 8:00pm

The Firehouse Grill 750 Chicago Avenue Evanston Lately, scientists in the field of Neuroscience have been experiencing an ongoing renaissance where the application of tools from Genetics, Engineering and Computer science in 'model systems' such as mice and flies is revolutionizing our understanding of the basic principles of how the brain works.

This is all 'basic research' so it has no super-immediate application to human disease. BUT Marco Gallio will use his favorite model system, the fruit fly, to make the case that this type of research is very important as it provides the foundation for everything that comes after, from artificial intelligence to medicine. In fact, most people are surprised when they realize how many fundamental contributions to human health came from fruit flies, from cancer genes to learning and memory.

Come on out to hear how the fruit fly has a long history of service in basic biology, – and now is at the forefront of research whose goal is to understand how circuits of interconnected brain cells process our behavior and emotions, as well as store our memories.